The Fast Track Courts were constituted with the aim of expediting the disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials who have been in jails for a long time.

(b) As on 30th November, 2002, 1,05,255 cases were pending in these courts.

(c) and (d) Appointment of Judges for Fast Track Courts is the primary responsibility of High Courts and the concerned State Government. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Ors. has given directions that steps should be taken within three months to ensure that no vacancies remain in Fast Track Courts.

As on 30th November, 2002, 968 Fast Track Courts were functional out of the 1234 courts notified by the States. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Ors. on 9th December, 2002 has further directed the defaulting States to file their status report and also indicate the period, which they would require for setting up the remaining Fast Track Courts. Minister of Law & Justice has also been addressing periodically, the States & the High Courts for setting up the full number of Fast Track Courts earmarked for the State and making them functional.

(e) A Statement showing the amount released under the Scheme of Fast Track Courts, State-wise and the progress made by the States in setting up Fast Track Courts, and in disposal of cases is given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 197 Annexure No. 25]

Contesting Elections on Fake Caste Certificates

†2612. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have fought Lok Sabha and State Legislature Elections in the country on the basis of fake and controversial caste certificates during the last five years;

(b) the number of cases investigated, out of them, and the outcome thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether National Commision on SCs/STs has also investigated the controversial caste certificate of the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The Election Commision of India, which has been vested with the responsibilities of superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls as well as conduct of elections as per article 324 of the Constitution, has informed that it does not have any information in this regard. Out of the two other concerned Ministries *viz.* the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the former has informed that it does not maintain such statistics. The Ministry of Tribal Affaris has also informed that it does not maintain such statistics as the job of issuance and verification of Scheduled Tribe Certificates rests with the concerned State Governments and Union territory Administration. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has, however, further informed that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, on investigation into the matter on a complaint filed with it, in its findings has observed that they are of considered views that Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh does not belong to Kanwar Tribe, rather he belongs to Satnami caste which has been notified as a Scheduled Caste in relation to the State of Chhattisgarh.

Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999

2613. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Government of Karnataka for the Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 is pending for clearance; and

(b) if so, the current status of the proposal and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The subject-matter of the Question pertains to the Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the Karnataka